FROM SPARK TO SPACE

HAMATEUR CHATTER

One of the World's Oldest Continuously Active Radio Amateur Club - since 1917

July, 1999 Vol. 07 No. 07

club officers

President ---------- 529-5583
Dave DeFebo ----- WB9BWP

1st V. Pres. -------- 475-6404
Matt Planning ----- KB9PRC

2nd V. P.- KB9LCQ@arrl.net
Brian White ------- KB9LCQ

Secretary 1 (414) 968-2724
Jim Tromblay ----- WB9LNU

Treasurer --------- 796-0969
Ken Eggert --------- W9MOT

Board of Directors

Barbara Brewer - KB9TIV
(99-01) --------- 447-8090

Pancho Doneis KA9OFA
(99-01 ---------- 344-4694

Al Drobac ------ KB9NRS
(99-01) --------- 643-8039

Rich McNew -- WB9PTC
(98-00) --------- 453-6781

Gerald Melotik --- KC9EV
(98-00) --------- 358-0107

Tom Fuszard ----- KF9PU
(98-00) ----------

From the President's Desk

Dave DeFebo - WB9BWP

Dave DeFebo

First thanks to Brian White KB9LCQ for finishing his program on APRS at the June meeting. For a warm night in June having a meeting attendance of 38 is not bad. Thanks to all for being there. By the way, for the people who may be asking what the point of APRS is, there is an interesting article on just that subject on the ARRL Members Only Web Site:(http://www.arrl.org/members-only/). Hopefully it is still there by the time you read this.

Field Day has come and gone. Hope everyone who was there had a good time. I want to thank Jerry Melotik for coordinating field day. Good job, Jerry. I also want to thank Jim Tromblay for storing and hauling all the club equipment (as well as his own) to and from the site. Thanks to Jackie Bye for operating the 2M FM station for the duration. Jackie and husband Mark also checked into a Navy MARS net Saturday night giving everyone an opportunity to experience a MARS (military style) net first hand. Something else new this year was an APRS station courtesy of Brian White. If you were curious about APRS, this was a perfect opportunity to find out about it. I hope we can repeat it next year and maybe add some other advanced technology stuff like satellites, SSTV, whatever. Interested? You don't

continued on page 2

Milwaukee Area Nets

DAY	TIME	MHZ	ACTIVITY
Daily	6-8 AM	14.290	Wisconsin/Florida Net (SSB)
Daily	6:30 PM	3.645	Wis. Slow Speed CW Traffic Net
MON-FRI	8:30 AM	3.965	After Breakfast Club (SSB)
MON	8:00 PM	146.445	Emergency Net
MON	9:00 PM	146.670 -	ARES Net (Milwaukee-Waukesha)
MON	9:00 PM	50.160	6 Mtr. General Net
TUE	9:00 AM	50.160	6 Mtr. 2nd shifter's Net
TUE	8:00 PM	144.250	Badger Contesters (SSB)
TUE	8:00 PM	7.035	A.F.A.R. Net (CW)
WED	8:00 PM	28.365	10-10 International (Milwaukee Ch.) (SSB)
THU	9:00 PM	50.160	6 Mtr. General Interest Net
THU	9:00 PM	146.910 -	Computer Net
FRI	8:45 PM	28.490	W9RH 10 meter MRAC Station Net (SSB)
FRI	9:15 PM	147.045 +	W9RH 2 mtr. net following the 10 mtr. net
SAT	9:00 PM	146.910 -	Saturday Nite Fun net
SUN	8:30 AM	3.985	QCWA (Chptr. 55) (SSB)
SUN	10:00 AM	443.800 +	FM-38 Link to 146.88 Baraboo SWAP Net
SUN	8:00 PM	28.365	10-10 International (Milwaukee Ch.) (SSB)
SUN	8:00 PM	146.910 -	Information Net
SUN	9:00 PM	146.910 -	Swap Net

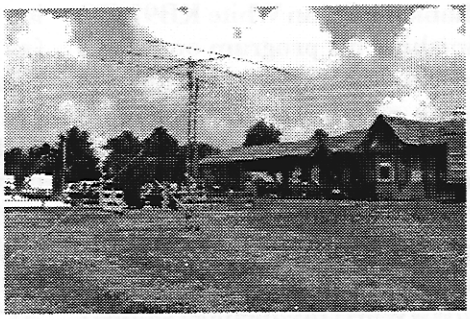
The 2 meter frequencies are -600 khz offset FM repeaters. FM38 is +5 Mhz offset, tone 114.8. The 10 meter frequencies are upper sideband (USB). If there are additions, changes, or corrections to this list, please contact: Pancho - KA9OFA at **344-4694** or call **797-MRAC**. Our old number doesn't work any more.

Presidents Desk continued from page 1

have to be an expert in something to give it a try. Field Day is an especially good place to try things out as there should be some expertise available from others in attendance.

A reminder that anyone with surplus stuff (radio, electronics and computer related, no major kitchen appliances or bathroom fixtures please) willing to donate to the club, feel free to bring it down to a meeting and place it on the raffle table. Tickets are sold for 50 cents each. If your number is called, you get to choose from the collection of stuff on the table. It may not sound like much, but the club gets a few bucks each month which can only help the treasury. If you have something of higher value and you really do not want the money personally, let me know and we can auction off the item to the highest bidder. And as always, any books and magazines are available for free (here is your chance to get rid of all those magazines you have been collecting).

Just about the only area where amateur radio can justify itself to the public is through public service communications. After many years of no contact, local emergency governments are again talking with amateur radio, specifically Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES). One rather large item being discussed is the involvement of amateur radio with Milwaukee and Waukesha County emergency governments in their Year 2000 plans. Local emergency governments are required by the state and federal governments to have some sort of plan in place to handle any problems which may occur due to any crazies making their presence known on December 31 of this year. In Milwaukee County this includes the desire to have amateur radio operators on location at numerous emergency operations centers and other locations. In Waukesha County the idea is to dispatch on an as needed/where needed basis. This means ARES needs 50-100 or more operators to volunteer for possible duty on December 31 and maybe more days. To achieve those numbers requires more than the usual volunteers for public service events. If you are interested in volunteering



Cedarburg depot at Pioneer Village Field Day site for '99

or need more information, contact John Leekley - WB9SMM either on the Monday night ARES net (9:00 PM 146.67 -600 127.3PL) or via phone 251-7056 or email:

jleekley@execpc.com (or check out the ARES web page:

http://www.ares.gmtcom.com/). And yes, John is a member of MRAC too.

As part of my rant on the future of MRAC and Amateur Radio, let's now start to talk about some things we might do to maybe insure our future. Something we are making headway on is freshening up the face of MRAC. This includes the new club logo which has been approved by members at the last 2 meetings. So what? The club needs a visual image in attracting new members. We recently livened up the Chatter, now we have a logo, soon the logo will be available as an embroidered patch, and on other items. Anything to get our name out in the public (ham's) eye. We will have new letterheads (to replace the 50 or so year old design and the 100 year old text font) and business cards. Also on the list are new member badges/membership cards, a packet of stuff for new members (to welcome someone to the club) a portable, table top display (for possible use at hamfests and the like), a club brochure (4-8 pages, with history, present and future club info), and some other materials. All this is so we look like a vital, important organization, not just a bunch of old guys talking about the good old days. By the way, we need people to help work on all these things. They can not happen without member involvement. Get involved!

Notice I mentioned a club table at hamfests. We did this a few years ago, but not lately. Does it sound like a good idea? A table at a hamfest has the potential of bringing MRAC to hundreds of hams all for a few hours work. If we have a table, what do we put on it? And who do we put behind it? Comments? Volunteers?

OK, so we create a pretty image. What then? Well there are a couple of things we as a small local club can do. We'll get into some details next month, but for now (and something to think about), there is the possibility of reviving license classes (we ran classes from 1976 to 1996). Something else which I read about in other sources is the idea of getting family members interested in amateur radio. Some potential future young hams could be living right in your own home. As I said let's talk about it next month.

73,

David B. DeBolt

WB9BWP

Introducing!

Barbara Brewer KB9TIV
one of our new Board members also does the 'Chatter mailings.

MRAC Board Meeting 6/21/99

The previous meeting minutes were read and approved as written.

Treasurers report -- $6727.29 total with CD's.

The board discussed Field Day and allotted money as required to pay for the food and a gift to Pioneer Village. Jerry KC9EV will be chairman and Matt KB9PRC will bring the food. Jim will bring the coffee pot along with all the other Club equipment.

The latest on the logo was discussed. However, final details were not given due to Al KB9NRS absence. The board decided that a club patch is the best place to start. Mark will check into coffee cups and shirts, etc.

The roster is ready. Brian KB9LCQ has completed his work on the project and the information will be given to Pancho to be enclosed with the July or August Chatter. Dave says that we will try to include a new roster every year in the Chatter. The new logo will be on all letter heads from now on.

Dave would like to create a new club brochure to be used as hand outs.

A monthly Chatter will be sent to the Milwaukee main library. The club will also create a new QSL card to be used by the VEC to answer questions left on the clubs answering machine and acknowledge QSO's with the club station etc: Pancho suggested that AES still has a source for QSL cards as well as ad's in QST or CQ magazines.

Dave would like a board member to work with Verne on the arrangements for the Christmas party. This way the board can establish the dinner price and coordinate the music and any prizes that we may have. The main objective this year is to keep the cost in line.

Pancho suggested that maybe we should entertain the idea of a club memorial fund if we receive any donations on behalf of deceased members. The board could decide once a year where the money will go. Records of the donations should be kept and a certificate should be given to the donator. More thoughts on this next month.

Finally, comments on the new ARRL section manager -- Don W9IXG.

Next month -- Discussion about the future of a MRAC school which can possibly be held at AES.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim WB9LNU

Jim - WB9LNU
Secretary

MRAC Field Day '99

Norm - KB9GQX 'n Jim - WB9LNU working on an antenna support

Field Day June '99

What a fun day we all had. There was a cool wind and lots of sun. Good food and plenty of cool drinks. Fred Linn had us eat in the barn behind the depot. The barn has a kitchen and refrigerators. Plenty of counter space too. Matt brought plenty of ham and turkey with rolls and potato chips.

We set up 6 stations. Two were club stations and the others were from Jim, Mark, Brian and Fred. We had two tri-band beams this year and several dipoles. More next month, after the count on points has been made and a list of the participating members is made along with a list of their contributions to field day effort.

Jim WB9LNU

Jim - WB9LNU

Jim - WB9LNU at Field Day

Will - W9ZOL, Fred - W9NZF and Barb checking out our main CW station at Field Day '99.

MRAC Club Meeting 6/24/99

MRAC Club Meeting - 24/99

The meeting was called to order at 7:32.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved as written.

Treasurer's report -- $720.29 in liquid assets and $6000 in CD.

Ken says we have been getting some returns on our mailings. Some members must not have notified us on their new addresses.

The mic was passed for all at the meeting to I.D.

Dave made a introduction to the new board members and thanked the parting directors for all their help.

Matt and Mark explained more on the club logo and the members voted to add (WI) inside the state outline on the new logo and have gold colored lightning bolts. Dave thanked Mark, Matt and Al for all their efforts on this project so far. Mark and Al will go to the patch company and get details on having them made.

Club business cards will be printed after the logo is 100% complete. All members will get new name badges every year from now on. The new club roster will be in the July or August Chatter.

A request to bring several copies of the clubs new by-laws to the meeting for members who may want a copy.

Field Day was discussed and everyone was invited to stop by. Jerry KC9EV is Chairman.

John KF9XL, our VEC says that the National Conference for VEC's was canceled waiting for the FCC to decide about the new license format. The next testing will be on September 25th at AES.

Warren introduced a visitor to the meeting Carol - KC8IGP.

The meeting adjourned at 8:25.

Brian KB9LCQ gave part 2 on his GPS (APRS) tracking system.

Refreshments by Alfred KB9SLC and Myron KA9MWV.

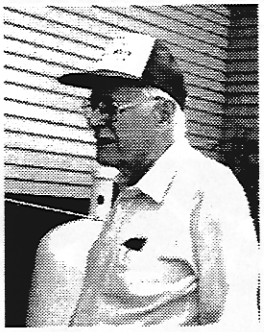
Respectfully submitted,

Jim WB9LNU

Jim WB9LNU
Secretary

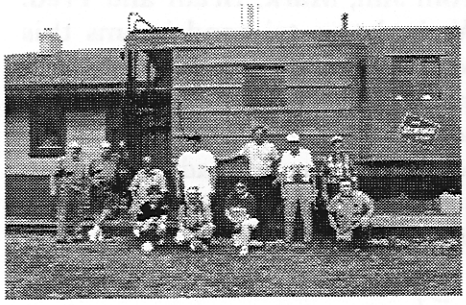
Ted - WA9RDI visitin'.

Dick - WB9PTC on HF and Jacki on 2 Meters.

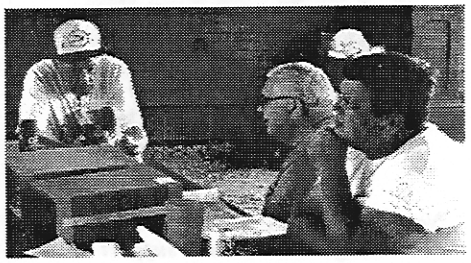


Jack - W9JK Observing

Jacki Bye - KB9LDW Our Star 2 meter operator for Field Day '99



Some of our clean up crew for Field Day '99



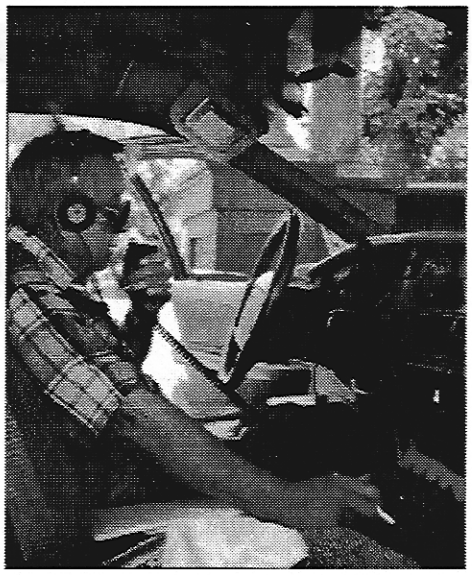
Fred - W9NZF, Ken - W9MOT, and Mark takin' a break under canopy of depot

Picnic HAM ?

Couldn't make it to Field Day? Want to have another picnic with radios around? Every August (this year August 6-8) Milwaukee ARES loosely sponsors something called Picnic Ham. This is a weekend of camping (Friday through Sunday) with radios and a campfire at night. There are usually radios and antennas set up for operating pleasure (sometimes even satellites and packet too). The event is open to everyone and their families. Saturday (August 7) is sort of the "normal" picnic day. Bring your own food and soda (beer is usually provided) and hang out. Stop by anytime Saturday. The location is Menomonee Park, Town Line Rd north of Good Hope.

There is an admission fee to the park. There is also an extra fee for camping. If camping, contact John Leekley WB9SMM so he can take up enough space for ham campers

David B. DeBolt.



Norm - KB9GQX racks in some ten meter contacts at our Field Day site.

SETI ?

Know what SETI is? SETI stands for the Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence. It is an organization of scientists who use the world's radio-telescopes to search for signals from space. At one time this was government funded, but it now private. Did you see the movie Contact? Besides having ham radio featured in its opening minutes, SETI is also central to the movie. While SETI is the official group of scientists, the SETI League is an organization of normal people like us (normal?) who are interested in SETI. It is headed up by Dr. H. Paul Shuch, N6TX. He has received the ARRL Technical Achievement Award for 1999 in recognition of his service to amateur radio. What does all this have to do with anything? SETI collects vast amounts of computer data from its research. No one computer or even room full of computers could even attempt to analyze this data. The SETI League has started a program called SETI@Home. What this is, if you have a computer, an internet connection and you want to help, you download some software (available for most operating systems) from The SETI League setiathome.ssl.berkeley.edu/) and install on your computer. The software operates like a screen saver. When the screen saver would kick in (due to computer inactivity) and if your internet connection is open, a chunk of SETI data is downloaded to your computer, analyzed and then uploaded back to SETI. There are even teams being set up (companies like Microsoft, Sun Microsystems, Silicon Graphics, HP, and others, clubs, any other group of people) to participate.

Interested?

Why not check it out.

David B. DeBolt

Letter from congressman Sensenbrenner

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515–4909

May 17,1999

Mr. Fred Linn
5454 Moraine Hills East
West Bend, WI 53095

Dear Mr. Linn:

Thank you for your recent communication regarding possible efforts to impose per-minute charges on Internet usage. Currently, Internet Service Providers (ISPs) are considered "end users" rather than "carriers," and are not subject to the same per-minute access charges that long distance telephone carriers costs to local telephone companies for the use of their are. Access charges are intended to recover the costs to local telephone companies for the use of their communication lines. They argue that the fees they currently receive from ISPs are not sufficient to cover the true costs of services provided to the ISPs. Consequently, local telephone companies asked the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to change the regulations so that ISPs would be treated in the same manner as long distance carriers. ISPs would then be subject to per-minute access charges. After considering the issue, the FCC decided last year that ISPs should continue to be treated as end users. Consequently, ISPs are <u>not</u> subject to per-minute access charges.

As you are aware, rumors to the contrary continue to persist. Reports have once again surfaced that the FCC is considering reversing their earlier decision and allowing per-minute charges for Internet use. While I'm sure that telephone companies continue to support this change in regulatory policy, the FCC has no plans to reverse their earlier decision to maintain the current access charge. There is a related matter before the FCC that has caused confusion on this issue. The proceeding concerns "reciprocal comlpensation," or how local telephone companies compensate each other for the use of another company's phone lines in completing a call. Specifically, the FCC is considering whether local calls to ISPs should be subject to reciprocal compensation. It is important to note that reciprocal compensation does not affect consumer Internet charges. Only the level of compensation between local telephone companies will be affected by the FCC's decision. This proceeding has <u>nothing</u> to do with the per- minute charge issue - the FCC has already decided that issue.

While this is good news, I am concerned about future decisions. Therefore I have cosponsored H.R. 1291, which is a bill to prohibit the imposition of access charges on Internet Service Providers. I hope you find this information helpful. Thanks again for contacting me,

Sincerely,

F. JAMES SENSENBRENNER, JR.,
Member of Congress

VE HAM RADIO EXAMS

VE HAM RADIO EXAMS
You will not be permitted to take the exam without these items:
1) Your original license (if you have one) and one photocopy of it.
2) Any CSCE's you may have (and a photocopy of each).
3) Two forms of identification (examples: driver's license and social security card).
4) $6.45 (exam fee).

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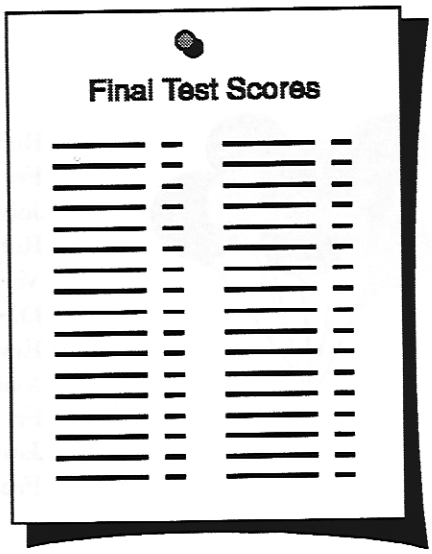
Walk-ins are welcome, but pre-registration is encouraged if possible. To register in advance, send a post card on which you have printed the grade of license for which you are applying, your name, address and telephone number to:

Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club
P.O. Box 25707
Milwaukee, WI 53225

For more information about testing, call:
797-MRAC (new number)
(797-6722)

If you have questions about a new license or upgrade, you may call the FCC at: 1-888-225-5322.



Tah Dah ! !

Presenting our New Logo!

MRAC
Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club
Spark to Space
W9RH
147.045 +500
VEC
Est
1917

VE Testing

No more VE exams until September(?) when our testing schedule will resume.

Check the August 'Chatter for further information.

(Just a little vacation for our VE's this summer.)

Items/Articles/Pictures forthe'Chatter

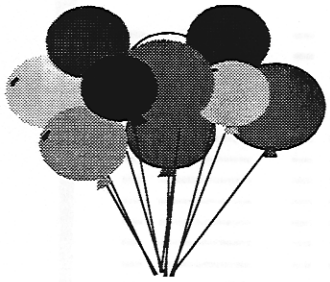
Articles and information for the newsletter should be received by the editor no later than the first of the month of publication. If received after the first of the month, its inclusion in that month's edition cannot be guaranteed. Your cooperation is appreciated.

Please mail submissions to:

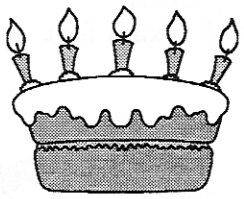
HamateurChatter
Pancho Doneis - KA9OFA
1958 N. 38th St.
Milwaukee, WI 53208
Email: pancho@thepark.net

Our People

August Birthdays



	Birthdate
Bette Schlesinger ---------- KB9JML	Aug 9
Fred E. Wilde ---------- N9BWT	Aug 10
John D. Merkl ---------- WB9PSE	Aug 10
Robert L. Willett ---------- K9UML	Aug 19
Verne Teske ---------- W9RYA	Aug 22
David B. DeFebo ---------- WB9BWP	Aug 22
Erwin G. Reiser ---------- K9CUI	Aug 27
Joseph G. Rayome --------- KE9LL	Aug 28
Fr. William J. Kidd, S.J. - NE9W	Aug 29
James A. Schmidt --------- KB9IIH	Aug 31
Fred A. Linn ---------- W9NZF	Aug 31



¡¡ Happy Birthday !!

Credits

Thanks to our news contributors this month:

KB9BWP KB9LCQ W9NZF WB9LNU

We also would like to thank Al Drobak, Alfred Huwald, and Myron Hendricks for taking care of the refreshments at our meetings.

Thanks to Rita Doneis for their help in the proofreading dept.

Our thanks go to John Merkl and Barbara Brewer for making sure that the 'Chatter gets printed, stamped, and mailed.

Also our thanks goes to Don and Jaquie for handling the Raffle at the meetings.

Our Thanks to Matt Karshna for the new 'Chatter format.

Thank you very much!

Editor's Notes

Hi, again,

Jerry Thompson - WA9SFH (Santa's Fat Helper) seems to be progressing fairly well. He is eating somesolids and is also getting some food by feeding tube. Jerry is up to a whopping 107 lbs. He's doing some walking exercises, when possible. The middle of August he will go in for a swallowing test.

He's hoping to make it to a meeting, soon.

Join us in our Friday night (10 and 2 meter) nets. (No experience is needed -- only a Ham license.

Some of us are still meeting for breakfast at Maxim's at about 182nd and Capitol for breakfast on Saturday morning at about 8:00. We'd like to see you there.

Well, I guess that's about it for now.

Hope to see you at the meeting.

73,

Pancho

Pancho - KA9OFA

A activities (ham)

CLUB MEETINGS

Milwaukee Radio Amateur's Club
Last Thursday of the month 7:30 p.m.
Redemption Lutheran Church
4057 N. Mayfair Rd.
Milwaukee, WI

Ozaukee Radio Club
Second Wed. of each month
7:30 p.m.
Grafton Multipurpose Senior Center
Grafton, WI

CLUB MEETINGS continued

Menomonee Falls Amateur Club
Last Wed of the month
Doors open @ 7:00 p.m. Mtg. @ 7:30 p.m.
Bank One Bldg.@
Pilgrim Rd. and Mequon Rd.
Germantown, WI

Miller Valley Radio Amateur Club
Tuesday evenings at 6:30 p.m.
at 703 N. 39th St.,
just north of (and almost under)
the Wis. Ave. viaduct.
For info contact: Art - WA9AWJ
(found daily on the 146.91 repeater).

South Milwaukee Amateur Radio Club
First Wednesday of each month
Americian Legion Post 434
9327 S. Sheppard Ave.
Oak Creek, WI
Auction at March & October mtgs.

West Allis Radio Amateur Club
Meets the second Tuesday of each month
at 8:00 p.m.
At St. Peter's Episcopal Church
7929 W. Lincoln Ave.
West Allis, WI

HAM CLUB ACTIVITIES

CQ Third Tuesday
11:00 a.m.
Old Country Buffet
164th and Bluemound

Y'all come(!) to the
MRAC HAM BREAKFAST
every Saturday morning at 8:00 a.m. at Maxim's Restaurant
18025 W. Capitol Dr. (a bit west of Calhoun).
Prices are reasonable, the food good, and the company excellent.

First Friday Fish Fry
Serb Hall at 51st and Oklahoma Ave. Call: Warren - K9IZV on the 146.91 - offset for reservations by noon on that FRI.

W9RH-10 & 2 METER NETs
W9RH Ten Meter Net 8:45 PM at 28.490 MHz. SSB Friday evenings at 9:15 2 meter FM repeater at 147.045 + offset. We'd like to meet you there.

E events (upcoming)

* - Indicates VE testing

RadioFest XVII
August 4, 5, 6, & 7, 1999
Elgin Plaza Hotel
Elgin, IL

HamFester's HamFest
Sun.-Aug 8, 1999
Will Cty. Fairgrounds
Peotone IL
T/I on 146.52 simp.
146.64 (-107.2) rptr.
146.94 (-) rptr.

Circus City SwapFest
Sat - Aug 14, 1999
Sauk Coundy Fairgrounds
Baraboo, WI
T/I on 146.88 rptr. or 146.52 simp.

Woodstock '99
HamFest and Computer Extravaganza
SUN - Aug 29, 1999
Woodstock, IL
T/I on146.52 simp.

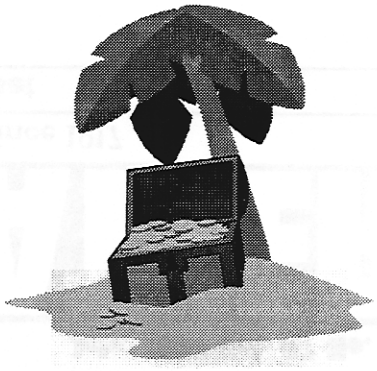
Peoria SuperFest '99
Sat & Sun - Sep 18 & 19, 1999
Exposition Gardens
Peoria, IL
T/I on146.76- & 147.075+

L'Anse Creuse Amateur Radio Club
27th Swap & Shop *
Sat. - Sep. 18,1999
L'Anse Creuse H.S.
Mt. Clemens, MI
T/I on 147.080+ rptr.

Radio Expo '99 *
Sep. 25 &26,1999
Lake cty Fairgrounds
Grayslake, IL
T/I 146.16/76 (107.2Hz PL)

CARC HamFest
Sun. - Oct, 10, 1999
Oak Brook Terrace, Ill

HamFest Minnesota & Computer Expo *
Sat. - Oct. 30, 1999
RiverCentre
St. Paul, MN



MRAC

meeting

This Month's meeting:

Thu. - July 29, 1999

7:30 PM

Program: WEPCO will put on a program about the Y2K preparations and readiness they have been involved in.

Redemption Lutheran Church
Fellowship Hall
4057 N. Mayfair Rd.
(Use the south entrance)
HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE

Please! Don't call the Church for information!!!

Board meeting: Mon. - July 26,1999
Next meeting;
August 26, 1999

HamateurChatter Deadline is
August 1, '99

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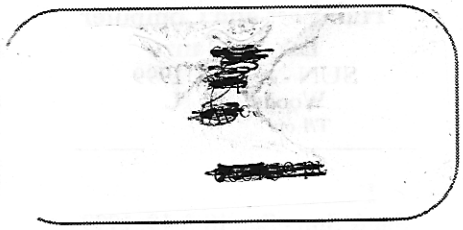
New Club Phone number:
797-MRAC
(797-6722)



FROM SPARK TO SPACE

July, 1999 Vol. 07 No. 07

HAMATEUR CHATTER

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